



# Low Water Public Advisory

Sector Upper Mississippi River  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Public Affairs Officer

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## Coast Guard Sector Upper Mississippi River Low Water Advisory

- **Many waterways throughout the Mid-West are experiencing lower than average water levels this year. This poses particular hazards to recreational boaters:**
  - **Areas that were navigable in past months or years may be too shallow to operate in now.**
  - **River structures such as dikes may be closer to the surface posing potential grounding threats.**
  - **Channel width may be smaller than expected.**
- **What you can do to protect yourself and your vessel:**
  - **Always have Personal Floation Devices (PFD's) for everyone onboard, Children under 13 should always wear a life jacket.**
  - **Operate in areas you are familiar with, at safe speeds.**
  - **Do not operate near Fleeting Areas, Commercial vessels, or barges. Larger vessels and structures can create strong eddies, undertows, and wakes.**
  - **Do not operate near underwater river structures, such as dikes.**
  - **Have light and sound signaling devices onboard.**
  - **Have a Voyage Plan: Tell someone where you are going, when you will be there, and a way to contact you to verify your safety.**
- **For Boating Safety tips and classes, please contact your local Coast Guard Auxiliary for support.**

### LINKS

River Water Levels: <http://www.riverwatch.noaa.gov/>

U. S. Coast Guard Press Release: <http://www.uscgnews.com>

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Press Releases: <http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/> then select "Public Affairs" then "Media Release"

U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Boating Safety: <http://cgaux.org/boatinged/>

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